

Serial No. 09/705,036
Reply to Office Action of July 17, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-18 (Previously Cancelled)

1 19. (Currently Amended) A method for automatically tracking an item within a
2 storage area that is received by the storage area, stored in the storage area and shipped out of
3 the storage area, said method comprising the steps of:

4 assigning a first item identifier indicative of an identify of the item, a destination
5 identifier indicative of a predetermined destination for the item, a status identifier indicative
6 of a status of the item, and a storage location identifier indicative of a storage location of the
7 item within a storage area;

8 storing the first item identifier, destination identifier, status identifier, and location
9 identifier in a first selectively programmable identification device having a memory that is
10 operatively in communication with a second selectively programmable interrogation device
11 having a memory that is also operatively in communication with a computer system;

12 assigning a second item identifier to the item that associates the item with the first
13 item identifier, wherein the second item identifier is stored in the memory of the first
14 selectively programmable identification device;

15 affixing the first selectively programmable identification device to the item; and

16 using the second selectively programmable interrogation device to interrogate the first
17 selectively programmable identification device by comparing the first item identifier[.] with
18 the second item identifier, and to read the destination identifier, status identifier and storage
19 identifier if the first item identifier compares to the second item identifier to track in tracking
20 the location of the item within the storage area.

1 20. (Previously Presented) A method as set forth in claim 19, further including
2 the step of programming the selectively programmable identification device with the first
3 item identifier, destination identifier, status identifier and the location identifier when the
4 item is received.

1 21. (Previously Presented) A method as set forth in claim 19 further including the
2 step of modifying the storage location identifier if the item is moved to another storage
3 location within the storage area.

1 22. (Currently Amended) A method as set forth in claim 19 further including the
2 step of assigning a transportation status identifier to the item indicative of whether the item
3 has been shipped, wherein the transportation status identifier is stored in the memory of the
4 first selectively programmable identification device.

1 23. (Currently Amended) A method as set forth in claim 19 further including the
2 step of removing the ~~location-determining~~ first selectively programmable identification
3 device before the item is shipped from the storage area.

1 24. (Currently Amended) A method as set forth in claim 19 wherein the first
2 selectively programmable identification device includes a processor, a memory and a
3 transceiver and the second selectively programmable identification device includes a
4 processor, a memory and a transceiver.

1 25. (Currently Amended) A method as set forth in claim 19 further including the
2 step of the first programmable identification device selectively transmitting a geographic
3 coordinate corresponding to storage location of the item.

1 26. (Currently Amended) A method as set forth in claim 19 wherein said first
2 selectively programmable identification device is a bar code storage device for selectively
3 reading and storing the first item identifier, second item identifier, destination identifier,
4 status identifier and the location identifier.

1 27. (Previously Presented) A method as set forth in claim 19 further including the
2 steps of identifying a predetermined transportation means and assigning the item to the
3 identified transportation means.

1 28. (Previously Presented) A method as set forth in claim 19 further including the
2 step of selectively altering the status identifier to prevent or allow shipment of the item.

1 29. (Cancelled)

1 30. (Currently Amended) A method as set forth in claim 29 19 wherein the status
2 code contains the shipping availability of the freight item and the freight item is selected only
3 if the stored status code indicates shipping availability.

1 31. (Currently Amended) A method as set forth in claim 29 19 wherein the freight
2 item is a vehicle.

1 32. (Currently Amended) A method as set forth in claim 29 19 further comprising
2 the step of generating a report including the location of the freight item.

1 33. (Currently Amended) A method as set forth in claim 29 19 wherein a rail car
2 is used as a freight transport carrier.

1 34. (Cancelled)

1 35. (Cancelled)

1 36. (Cancelled)

1 37. (Cancelled)

1 38. (Cancelled)

1 39. (Currently Amended) A system for tracking an item a vehicle that is received
2 by a storage area, stored within the storage area and shipped from the storage area
3 comprising:
4 a storage area for storing the item vehicle having a plurality of predetermined storage
5 locations and an identifier associated with each storage location;

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6 a computer system having a database, and the predetermined location identifier, an
7 item vehicle identifier, a status identifier and a destination identifier are stored in a memory
8 of said computer system; and

9 a first selectively programmable identification device disposed on the item vehicle,
10 wherein ~~an item~~ a vehicle identifier, a location identifier, a status identifier and a destination
11 identifier are stored in a memory of said ~~location determination~~ first identification device[],]
12 and said first identification device is operatively in communication with a second selectively
13 programmable interrogation device that is also operatively in communication with said
14 computer system, for tracking the item vehicle using the item vehicle identifier, the location
15 identifier, the status identifier and the destination identifier.

1 40. (Currently Amended) A system as set forth in claim 39 wherein a
2 transportation status identifier indicative of whether the item vehicle has been shipped is
3 stored in the memory of the first identification device and the computer system.

1 41. (Currently Amended) A system as set forth in claim 39 wherein said first
2 identification device selectively transmits a geographic coordinate corresponding to the
3 location of the item.

1 42. (Currently Amended) A system as set forth in claim 39 wherein said first
2 identification location determining device is a bar code storage device for selectively reading
3 and storing the location identifier, the item vehicle identifier, the status identifier, and the
4 destination identifier.

1 43. (Cancelled)

1 44. (New) A method for automatically tracking a vehicle within a storage area
2 that is received by the storage area, stored in the storage area and shipped out of the storage
3 area, said method comprising the steps of:

4 assigning a first vehicle identifier indicative of an identify of the vehicle, a destination
5 identifier indicative of a predetermined destination for the vehicle, a status identifier
6 indicative of a status of the vehicle, and a storage location identifier indicative of a storage
7 location of the vehicle within a storage area;

8 storing the first vehicle identifier, destination identifier, status identifier, and location
9 identifier in a first selectively programmable identification device having a processor, a
10 memory and a transceiver that is operatively in communication with a second selectively
11 programmable interrogation device having a processor, a memory and a transceiver that is
12 also operatively in communication with a computer system;

13 assigning a second vehicle identifier to the vehicle that associates the vehicle with the
14 first vehicle identifier, wherein the second vehicle identifier is stored in the memory of the
15 first selectively programmable identification device;

16 affixing the first selectively programmable identification device to the vehicle when
17 the vehicle is received;

18 modifying the storage location identifier if the vehicle is moved to another storage
19 location within the storage area;

20 using the second selectively programmable interrogation device to interrogate the first
21 selectively programmable identification device by comparing the first vehicle identifier with
22 the second vehicle identifier, and to read the destination identifier, status identifier and

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23 storage identifier if the first vehicle identifier compares to the second vehicle identifier to
24 track the location of the vehicle within the storage area; and
25 removing the first selectively programmable identification device before the vehicle is
26 shipped from the storage area.

1 45. (New) A method as set forth in claim 44 further including the step of
2 assigning a transportation status identifier to the item indicative of whether the item has been
3 shipped, wherein the transportation status identifier is stored in the memory of the first
4 selectively programmable identification device.

1 46. (New) A method as set forth in claim 44 further including the first step of the
2 programmable identification device selectively transmitting a geographic coordinate
3 corresponding to storage location of the item.

1 47. (New) A method as set forth in claim 44 wherein said first selectively
2 programmable identification device is a bar code storage device for selectively reading and
3 storing the first item identifier, second item identifier, destination identifier, status identifier
4 and the location identifier.

1 48. (New) A method as set forth in claim 44 further including the steps of
2 identifying a predetermined transportation means and assigning the item to the identified
3 transportation means.

1 49. (New) A method as set forth in claim 44 further including the step of
2 selectively altering the status identifier to prevent or allow shipment of the item.

1 50. (New) A method as set forth in claim 44 wherein the status code contains the
2 shipping availability of the vehicle and the vehicle is selected only if the stored status code
3 indicates shipping availability.

1 51. (New) A method as set forth in claim 44 further comprising the step of
2 generating a report including the location of the vehicle within the storage area and the status
3 of the vehicle.

1 52. (New) A method as set forth in claim 44 wherein a rail car is used as a freight
2 transport carrier.